82D CONGRESS, 2d Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 2121

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO CONVEY CERTAIN LAND IN RICHMOND, CALIF.

JULY 5 (legislative day, JUNE 27), 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. JOHNSON of Colorado, from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, submitted the following

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REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 7126]

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7126) to authorize and direct the Secretary of Commerce to convey certain land and grant certain easements to the State of California for highway construction purposes in Richmond, Calif., having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

This bill which passed the House without objection has the approval of the Secretary of Commerce.

STATEMENT

This bill is necessary in order to convey to the State of California title to certain portions of a 20-acre tract of land that was acquired in 1943 by the United States for the purpose of erecting warehouse facilities in connection with the Maritime Richmond Shipyard. The installation has been retained by the Maritime Commission for use in its warehouse program as well as for a records management center for the west coast area.

The committee was advised that the property originally cost approximately $30,000. The amount being conveyed by this legislation is about one-quarter acre in extent. In other words, we might say this quarter acre cost the Government approximately $375. However, the property transferred by this bill is marshy and, therefore, not usable in its present condition. Consequently, it is of doubtful value in its present state.

The committee is advised that the public highway and drainage system to be constructed and maintained by the State of California will improve the contiguous lands owned by the United States and will

afford additional means of entering or leaving the property. The committee knows of no opposition to this transfer.

The committee has been advised that immediate action is necessary in order to take advantage of certain funds that have been set aside for this purpose by the State of California for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1952.

The report of the Secretary of Commerce dated April 30, 1952, to the chairman of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, is set forth below:

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE,
Washington, April 30, 1952.

Hon. ROBERT CROSSER,
Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. CROSSER: You have requested the views of this Department with respect to H. R. 7126, a bill to authorize and direct the Secretary of Commerce to convey certain land and grant certain easements to the State of California for highway-construction purposes in Richmond, Calif.

The real estate involved in the bill is a small part of a 20-acre tract acquired in 1943 by the United States for the purpose of erecting warehouse facilities in connection with the maritime Richmond Shipyard. The installation has been retained by the Maritime Administration for use in its warehouse program, as well as for a records management center for the west coast area.

The bill would authorize and direct the Secretary of Commerce to donate and convey to the State of California all the right, title, and interest of the United States to a plot of land located between Railroad Avenue and Castro Street in the city of Richmond, Calif. The said plot contains approximately 11,178 square feet, and is to be used by the State for the construction and maintenance of a public highway and for no other purpose. There is reserved to the United States "all oil, gas, coal, and other mineral deposits in such land, including all materials determined pursuant to section 5 (b) (1) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 to be peculiarly essential to the production of fissionable material, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove such minerals."

The Secretary of Commerce would also be authorized and directed to grant to the State of California an easement for the construction and maintenance of a highway embankment, and for the construction and maintenance of trenches and pipes as required for proper drainage, upon, over, under, and across an adjoining plot of land, which contains approximately 402 square feet.

The Secretary of Commerce is further authorized and directed to grant to the State of California a temporary easement to be effective until January 1, 1955, for the construction and maintenance of a highway embankment on another adjacent plot of land containing approximately 5,612 square feet.

The bill requires that the conveyance and easements authorized by the bill shall expressly provide that the State of California will at all times maintain such public highway, embankments, and drainage systems in good order, condition, and repair, wholly at its own cost and expense, and that such drainage systems will be constructed and maintained by the State of California in such manner as to provide sufficient and adequate surface drainage at all times from the adjacent or contiguous lands owned by the United States.

The land covered by this bill is marshy and not usable by the Maritime Administration in its present state. The construction of a public highway over this land by the State of California will improve the contiguous remaining land owned by the United States, and will afford additional means of ingress and egress to the property.

There is a slight error in the description on page 4, line 12, namely, the word "forty" should be "four" instead.

Subject to the correction above noted, the Department of Commerce recommends favorable consideration of the bill.

We have been advised by the Bureau of the Bugdet that it would interpose no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

If we can be of further assistance to you in this matter, please call upon us.

Sincerely yours,

THOS. W. DAVIS,
Acting Secretary of Commerce.